(c) the total expenditure incurred thereon till date;

(d) the total expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(e) the reasons for escalation of cost of the project?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) The North Koel (Kutku) project in Bihar was to be completed by 1994-95 by Bihar State Government. Irrigation is a State subject. The projects are planned, funded and implemented by the State Governments from their own resources. Completion of the project depends upon the priority given by the State Government.

(b) Installed capacity of the power-house is 24 megawatt.

(c) & (d) Anticipated expenditure upto March, 1995 was Rs. 386.01 crores. Approved outlay for 1995-96 is Rs. 45.00 crores. The latest estimated cost of the project (at 1991-92 level) is Rs. 475.00 crores.

(e) The reasons for escalation of cost of the Project are rise in prices during construction, non-availability of adequate funds, escalation in the cost of acquisition of land, rehabilitation and resettlement etc.

[English]

Issues with Bangladesh

*432. SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the outstanding issues with Bangladesh;

(b) whether the Government have taken any steps to expedite bilateral talks between India and Bangladesh to settle all these issues;

(c) if so, the details thereof, issue-wise;

(d) whether the second round of talks has already begun between the two countries; and

(e) if so, the details and the outcome thereof, so far?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL):(a) to (e). The outstanding issues with Bangladesh pending for settlement include sharing of waters of the major common rivers, repatriation of Chakma refugees to Bangladesh, Illegal immigration from Bangladesh, insurgency-related developments and further expansion of cultural, commercial and economic co-operation including transport linkages. The Government remains committed to the maintenance of friendly and co-operative relations with Bangladesh. For this purpose, soon after the installation of new Government in Bangladesh, the Foreign Secretary visited Dhaka in July 1996 to consider steps to move forward on all issues in the bilateral relations. A second round of discussions was held during the visit of Bangladesh Foreign Secretary to India from August 6-9, 1996. The discussions covered all the major issues in bilateral relations. It has been agreed to continue the dialogue towards resolution of these issues. A meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Economic Commission is proposed to be held later in the year.

[Translation]

Central Universities

*433. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:
SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the Central Universities in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to accord the status of Central University to the Patna University of Bihar; and

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI):

(a) A State-wise list of Central Universities is given below:-

DELHI

1. University of Delhi, Delhi.
2. Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.
3. Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi.
4. Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi.

UTTAR PRADESH

1. Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.
2. Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh.
3. Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow.

WEST BENGAL

1. Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan.